Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a method of producing a digital certificate, a certificate authority compiles a data set containing a public key and digital data that identifies the owner of the public key and an associated private key, and subsequently signs that data set to produce a digital certificate. The invention, the digital data also includes data that identifies a device for generating the private key and/or storing the private key on a support and/or signing with the private key. The method can be used to produce X509-type digital certificates.